

INTERNSHIP REPORT UNDERTAKEN AT THE
INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK RESEARCH INSTITUTE

NAME: ERICK GREGORY ONYANGO

GENDER: MALE

NATIONALITY: KENYAN

PRIMARY AFFILIATION: UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

EMAIL ADDRESS: gregawanda@gmail.com

PROJECT TITLE: 'Source attribution of Campylobacter in England and
Kenyan poultry value chains'

SUPERVISORS: PROF. ERIC FEVRE,

DR. PABLO ALARCON,

MR. VICENTE LOPEZ

DATES: 1ST AUGUST- 30 SEPT 2013

I undertook my internship at ILRI, Nairobi, within two the projects titled ‘Source attribution of *Campylobacter* in England and Kenyan poultry value chains’, and “Epidemiology, ecology and socio-economics of disease emergence in Nairobi,” where my supervisors were Mr Vicente Lopez and Dr Pablo Alarcon respectively. I was actively committed in the first project from 1st August to 4th September 2013 and in the second project from 5th September to 30th September, 2013.

The first project aimed at giving a full description, characterization and mapping of all different steps and people involved in the poultry value chain of the Kenyan poultry industry so as to understand the mechanisms that can prevent the occurrence of food-borne diseases like Campylobacteriosis in humans arising from consumption of contaminated poultry products. I took part in making contacts with the major players in the poultry industry that included managers and owners of poultry breeder farms, hatcheries, commercial farms, abattoirs and feed mills so as to get access to these premises.

We also made a list of retailers of poultry products with an intention of visiting. After this, we designed questionnaires that were tailored towards extracting as much information as possible from the people involved and the activities carried out at the different steps in the chain in order to identify those points that posed serious public health risk hotspots. The questionnaires were piloted at the Brade Gate poultry industry and necessary changes made. Another set of questionnaires was designed and used in the second project to collect data from red meat slaughter houses within Nairobi with the same objectives in mind.

The internship was a learning experience where I gained knowledge on doing systematic review of scientific publications. I also learnt on the various research methodologies that were used in the project, chiefly designing semi structured questionnaires to collect data from focus groups and individuals. I had an opportunity to take part in data collection and reporting using the questionnaires.

Amongst the skills I have gained while working as an intern are mapping food value chains and identification of the public health risk hot spots in the value chain, data collection and analysis. I have also been exposed to skills on writing scientific reports.

The knowledge, experience and skills that I gained during this internship will play an integral role steer me forward in my research career. I have already enrolled for an MSc degree at the University of Nairobi and thus with the research background that I have been exposed to while working on these projects is going to boost me credentials in doing my own Master’s research project.